

DX LISTENING DIGEST 2-198, December 17, 2002
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NOTE: If you are a regular reader of DXLD, and a source of DX news but have not been sending it directly to us, please consider yourself obligated to do so. Thanks, Glenn

WORLD OF RADIO 1160:

WWCR: Wed 1030 9475

RFPI: Wed 0700, 1300 on 7445 and/or 15039

WJIE: M-F 1300, daily 0400; Sun 0630, Mon 0700, Tue 0630 on 7490

ONDEMAND <http://www.wrn.org/ondemand/worldofradio.html>

[High] (Download) <http://www.k4cc.net/wor1160h.rm>

(Stream) <http://www.k4cc.net/wor1160h.ram>

[Low] (Download) <http://www.k4cc.net/wor1160.rm>

(Stream) <http://www.k4cc.net/wor1160.ram>

(Summary) <http://www.worldofradio.com/wor1160.html>

WORLD OF RADIO 1161 FIRST AIRINGS:

Wed 2300 on WBCQ 7415, 17495

Thu 2130 on WWCR 9475

Fri 1930 on RFPI 15039

** AFGHANISTAN [non]. Per your comments in DXLD 2-196 on Merlin's dramatic music, "sure wish we had the real name for it...", in absence of the source for that loop, I call it "Fanfare for the Common Afghan". Apologies to Aaron Copland! (John Cobb, Roswell, Dec 16, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** ALBANIA. RADIO TIRANA DUMPS MARXISM, GETS RELIGION

UK Reuters Mon Dec 16,12:58 AM ET, By Linda Spahia

TIRANA (Reuters) - Before the collapse of communism in 1990, about the

only things travelling abroad from highly isolated Albania were propaganda messages.

They reached far and wide thanks to Chinese-built transmitting stations, which made Radio Tirana on short wave one of the clearest signals in the region despite coming from a country which was one of the poorest and smallest in Europe.

These days, ironically, the state that banned religion during its years of hardline communism relies on rebroadcasting Christian stations to keep the Radio Tirana service going.

In its heyday, the station tried hard to convince the world to follow Albania's example -- in 22 languages from English to Indonesian and with more than 80 hours of programming a day.

"Luckily the world did not hear," said New Zealander June Taylor, one of the many foreigners who worked at Radio Tirana as announcers and translators.

Radio Tirana painted a rosy picture of how everybody was happy, healthy and working so hard for the good of the country that Albania had become self-sufficient, Taylor said.

It portrayed big evil capitalist countries where most people were unemployed and could not afford to send children to school while youngsters lay in the streets drunk on Coca Cola and Pepsi, two beverages Albanians only tasted after 1990.

"The Socialist economy does not know anarchy or crises in production. It does not throw workers onto the street because of bankruptcy or enterprises closing down," proclaims one transcript of a story broadcast in August 1979.

What the stories did not mention was that Albania was a poor and repressive state which denied its citizens basic freedoms and shot dead many who tried to travel abroad.

WESTERN FANS

But to many people who knew Albania only from what they heard on Radio Tirana, the country was an island of hope. Taylor's father, a dentist from Auckland, was one of them.

He volunteered to stay for two years in Albania, where his medical skills and help in translating the books of communist dictator Enver Hoxha were most welcome. They ended up staying longer after Taylor fell in love and married a local man.

As a native English speaker, she was hired in 1974 to read and translate news and stayed at the radio station for 19 years.

"News arrived at the very last minute. The quality of translation left much to be desired and they were packed with boring slogans," Taylor said.

Phrases like "the army and the people are one and indivisible", or how the "working collective of the Enver Hoxha tractor combine fulfilled the plan three months ahead of schedule" were among those she read out for years.

Still, the station received thousands of letters from all over the world. A Swede learnt Albanian just by listening to the radio. Others wrote to commend speech programmes and folk music.

An English farmer in 1979, after hearing about an earthquake (news - web sites) that hit northern Albania, wrote a letter saying he wanted to come and help with his tractor and his family, Taylor said.

"Many Marxists from Western European countries came to Albania convinced it was a state run by its people. But it was enough to walk out of the radio to realise that it was not true," Taylor said.

DISTORTED NEWS

As part of Radio Tirana's efforts to tell the world what was right and wrong, Janka Selimi, a Bulgarian national married to an Albanian, had the unenviable duty of criticising her home country for being servile to the Soviet Union.

"We said that they were turning bourgeois for owning a car and their apartments. Any time I read that news, I felt like I was betraying my country," said Selimi, now 58.

Not that she or any other journalist at Radio Tirana had much of a choice. Their job was just to read and translate reports that came from the official news agency ATA or straight from the Central Committee of the Communist party.

"During the war in Vietnam, one of us added up all the numbers of the killed American soldiers we had been reading every day and it turned out we had wiped out the whole U.S. army at least twice," Taylor said.

But no one dared to tell their bosses.

MARX MAKES WAY FOR JESUS

In the mid 1960s, Albania broke with the Soviet Union and allied itself with China. The Chinese then built radio stations in Albania in order to make their voice heard in Moscow and Washington, Irfan Mandia, the radio's technical director said.

Two transmitting stations -- one for AM and for short wave -- were built in isolated locations, heavily guarded by the army and equipped with anti-aircraft defence. The powerful signal of Radio Tirana reached out to the world, challenging even the BBC.

Engineers now admit it was not just because of the strength of their signal that Radio Tirana was heard so clearly.

"Before 1990, we broadcast on the band of frequencies reserved only for radio amateurs, where there was not much interference," Mandia revealed.

Although the technology of Radio Tirana looks very out of date in the digital era, the equipment is still up and running -- to the astonishment even of the Chinese engineers who built it -- thanks to dedicated local maintenance staff.

After communism collapsed and "it became clear we were no shining lantern for the world", the foreign radio service was cut to seven languages and just three hours a day, Mandia said.

"Now we had free space, the equipment and no programme. So we offered our services to international radios," Mandia said.

Religious broadcaster Trans World Radio became the main client of Radio Tirana's foreign service and its saviour from bankruptcy.

Mandia said the services Radio Tirana now offers to third parties, which also include Voice of America of the United States and Germany's Deutsche Welle, have made it profitable.

But he knows that soon it may be harder to find spare parts for his Chinese transmitting station than new clients to serve. (via Artie Bigley and Mike Terry, DXLD)

** AUSTRALIA. HCJB's new facility at Kununurra WA will not begin broadcasting until 5th January 2003. Due to technical difficulties, the December 22nd launch has had to be delayed (HCJB mailbag Program 14/12 via ADXN via DXLD)

** AUSTRALIA. SYDNEY - HOBART YACHT RACE
John Wright has passed on this information from Ian O'Toole concerning

radio communications for this event. HF Frequencies expected to be used are:

6627 - Should be primary
6516 - New frequency
4483 - Used during previous events
VHF channels 16, 72, 73 & 81

Between 15 & 21 December all entrants are to carry out radio checks on both 6 MHz frequencies with Penta Comstat between 0800-1800 local. The radio schedules for the race are yet to be finalized but will be available on the web closer to the race start under 'Sailing Instructions' <http://from www.cyca.com.au> (Dec ADXN via DXLD)

**** AUSTRALIA. VMC/VMW**

VMW is now transmitting on 12362 (formerly 12353 and originally 12536). This means it now uses an adjacent channel to VMC on 12365. A check from this QTH at 2040 on 29/11 with both sites on air showed VMW at S 7 and VMC at S 9 + 5db on the R5000 S meter. The first change was due to concerns expressed by ZLM Taupo Radio. VMW voice schedules are now broadcast over the FAX stations 0315-0300 UT each day; there is no indication of the VMC voice schedules being included although there are slots available. Frequency changes from day to night frequencies and vice versa are: VMC 1900/0900 UT. VMW 2100/1100 UT (Dec ADXN via DXLD)

**** BOLIVIA. 4716.63t. Radio Yura reactivating? 2340 to 0000, very weak! (Robert Wilkner, FL, Dec 15, DX LISTENING DIGEST)**

**** BOLIVIA. A rádio San Miguel É uma emissora da cidade de Riberalta, no estado de Beni. Emite em 4925 kHz. Ultimamente, tem sido sintonizada em 4929 kHz, o que facilita a recepção da rádio Educação Rural, de Teffé (AM), que está em 4925 kHz. A San Miguel, conforme estudo de Luis Ramiro Beltrón e Jaime Reyes, publicado em www.felafacs.org, É uma emissora educativa de destaque na Bolívia. Além disso, luta para organizar e fortalecer os agricultores de sua região (Célio Romais, @tividade DX Dec 14 via DXLD)**

**** BOLIVIA. 4929.98, Radio San Miguel, Riberalta, Dec 2002 - 0040 UT. Before my 4-month stay in Sweden Radio San Miguel had a long period with serious transmitter problems, very distorted audio and frequency drift. Now it seems that this is repaired and both audio and stability are without any remarks. Religious program and close down at 0112 UT.**

5995.60 UNID LA Dec 2002 - 1045 UT. Maybe Radio Loyola, Sucre, Bolivia --- possibly a "Sucre" was heard but I am not at all sure. Radio Melodía was heard at the same time on 5996.69 kHz. UT -4 (Björn Malm,

Quito, Ecuador, SW Bulletin Dec 15, translated by editor Thomas Nilsson for DXLD)

** BRAZIL. 3365.00, Radio Cultura, Aranguara, Dec 2002 - 0010 UT. Nonstop music with short IDs between the tunes up to the big ID at 0010.

4925.07, Radio EducaÁ,,o Rural, TefÊ, Dec 2 2002 - 0002 UT. Decent signal but heavy splashed by Radio Quito. Listed on 3385 kHz so maybe a new frequency? [yes, move reported several times in DXLD ñgh] "Radio EducaÁ,,o Rural, TefÊ, Amazonas, Brazil" is a clear ID where also MW 1270 and SW 4925 (not listed) kHz was mentioned (Bj^rn Malm, Quito, Ecuador, SW Bulletin Dec 15, translated by editor Thomas Nilsson for DXLD)

** CAMBODIA. 11940.3: V. of Cambodia, Phnom Penh. In English 1159, signed on with opening music, ID, schedule information. 1201 Asian music and talk. Strong signal but bad audio, 8/12 (Takeno, Japan, Dec ADXN via DXLD)

Very tentative, 1226-1245 9/12, exotic vocals and instrumentals, unID language talks. Haven't seen any other reports for this recently. Is Cambodia on the air? Very poor reception with extremely deep fades. (Rich D'Angelo, PA, ADXN via DXLD)

ID and opening announcements in French 1213, though on since 1200 with muffled programming, mainly music. Haven't heard this for a while, 11/12 (Craig Seager, Australia, ADXN via DXLD)

** CANADA. Re RCI 5970 DRM QRM to BBC 5975? I would presume that there's a chance, but since BBC WS isn't targeting NAM, they may not have taken that into consideration. 73- (Bill Westenhaver, RCI, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CANADA [non?]. 12025 HCJB via Ascension. Christian religious talk in Arabic giving Malaga address, good 2115 on 8/11 (Frank Agius, Vic., ADXN)

12025 R. Ibrahim, Cyprus via Ascension. Discussion in Arabic (or similar) at 2127 tune-in. Music played is cross between European and ME types. Mention of 'Limassol' and 'Stockholm' in TOH announcements with address in Stockholm. Still on air at 2205. Operating this day beyond the reported 2130ñ2200 time slot. Good strength and readable signal. 2127 8/12 (Charles Jones, NSW, ADXN)

HFCC says HCJB via Skelton here 2100-2230, so some question on the correct site. I assume the ``Ibrahim`` thing is part of the HCJB transmitter time -cs (Craig Seager, ADXN editor)

12025 RCI-Wertachtal. Araboc to N. Africa *2100 ID, fair, 14/11 (Ted Carter, Tasmania, Dec ADXN via DXLD)

These loggings from the latest Australian DX News do not take into account our more recent reports that 12025 at 2100-2230 is now HCJB via Sackville! But maybe the November log was before changes were made. I was processing this item at 2225 UT Dec 17, so punched up 12025, and yes, it's still very strong, obviously North American origin, not European. Whether there be a connexion between Ibrahim and HCJB, I don't know; but in the final 5 minutes of transmission in Arabic, much of which was innocuous secular-sounding vocal music, there was ***no*** mention of ``Ibrahim`` --- nor of HCJB! Just the Apartado in M-laga, Espagne. RCI bilingual ID squeezed in just before transmitter cut at 2129 (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

**** CANADA.** 6030, CKMX (SW relay) Calgary, 0930, After Sudwestrundfunk started to fade with daylight in Germany, yet before R. Marti and the Cuban Jammer obliterated the frequency, I had very nice reception of this 100 watt SW relay of CKMX. I'm not sure of the SW call letters, perhaps CFVP? Excellent modulation. Respectable S7 signal peaks with a little flutter due to the effects of a somewhat elevated solar wind from a weak coronal hole. Program consisted of nice Christmas music. "Little Drummer Boy" was playing when I tuned. At 0932 I caught the following canned ID: "Our holiday music is almost as fun as tearing open Christmas presents. AM 1010 CKMX." Then into a remake of "Blue Christmas". By 0954 recheck, there was a 20 over 9 unmodulated carrier, presumably from Marti on top (David Hodgson, TN, Dec 16, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

**** CANADA/CANARY ISLANDS.** 6715 USB, "Halifax Military", Dec 13, Should read 2205 not 1605. I put it in Central Standard Time instead of GMT, sorry (David Hodgson, TN, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

**** CHINA.** Hi Glenn, Noted on 6160 kHz both VOA and China broadcasting in Chinese at 1200-1300. I am assuming that China is here to jam the VOA broadcast because I don't have any references of this freq being used by China at this time? Anyway VOA is broadcasting from the Philippines while I think that it is the Central Peoples Broadcasting System from Shijiazhuang broadcasting here too. I searched for a parallel broadcast of the China station and came up with Shijiazhuang on 5880 kHz. At the moment China is winning the battle of dominance here. Thanks (Chuck Bolland, Clewiston, Florida, Dec 15, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

**** COLOMBIA.** 3479.99H, Ondas del Ortegua, Florencia. Nov 20 2002 - 1037 UT. Great signal and transmission intended for farmers up early in the mornings: "Amanecer campesino". I have earlier heard the

station on its 2-nd harmonic 2319.72H. Harmonic from 1160 kHz (3 x 1159.96). (Björn Malm, Quito, Ecuador, SW Bulletin Dec 15, translated by editor Thomas Nilsson for DXLD)

** CUBA. Re: No sign of RHC on 6195...

Glenn, I've found R Havana tonight at 0400- on 6275, badly FMing. Cuba, 6275, R Havana, 0400 Dec. 15, Badly FMing extremely distorted in AM, but nice and clean in FM mode. Also, there is a distorted spur 75 kHz up on 6350. Popular music px with Cuban rap groups during the time I listened. R Havana ID at 0425 by announcer (David Hodgson, TN, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

David, I assume you mean in English? Will be interesting to see if they stay there. And if Arnie Coro starts promoting their FM service! Also the frequency for the 2230 broadcast is normally different from those used after 0100. 73, (Glenn to David via DXLD)

No, it was in Spanish. There were a enough similar sounding words to figure out the basic meaning of the program content. Then of course, there was the actual ID (Hodgson, ibid.) See also VENEZUELA non

** CUBA. Estimado Glenn: Te informo que sigo en el espacio DX de Ventana Rebelde los domingos (lunes 0430 UT) por los 6120 kHz, y En Contacto de RHC donde en enero har  un concurso por los aniversarios de las emisoras Radio Rebelde, Radio Reloj y Radio Habana Cuba. Felices fiestas y buen a o para t  (Manolo de la Rosa, Cuba, Dec 16, DX LISTENING DIGEST) I've lost track of current times and frequencies for En Contacto; used to be a quarter-hour Sundays around 1335 and 2200~ (gh, DXLD)

** ECUADOR. HCJB's website <http://www.hcjb.org> has been redesigned. On my way to find latest DXPL audio, which, it turned out, was not yet there, I noticed they have a link to the day's World Newscast, with the emphasis on Latin America, an 8.3 minute ram file. At 1552 UT Monday this was from 1200 UT, apparently the same date judging from references, tho date was not announced. But how can you live in South America and not know how to pronounce 'Ch-vez'? Real news lasted only 6.3 minutes, then ``Mission Network News`` for the remainder. At least they keep this separate (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST) See also CANADA

Glenn: For the past several days been listening to a station, strong, sometimes heavy QSB, on 9650 kHz from about 7 PM to 9 PM PST, or 0300 to 0500 UT. Language appears to be Spanish, music and talk, but during the last half hour 0430 to 0500 UT, they have an English program, news articles, etc., spoken very slowly and distinctly as if they were teaching a class or like the "Special English" the VOA uses (but with

a British accent). Right after the English program, they sign off with a Spanish sentence or two. Nothing in my 2002 Passport. Any ideas?
Thanks, Gordon

I know HCJB's Spanish service has moved to 9650 this season. Hadn't noticed the English teaching show then, but I have heard it at other times on HCJB Spanish frequencies (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** ECUADOR [and non]. First of all I want to congratulate SWB for having published 1500 issues! Fantastic, it is a great honour for me to contribute to this jubilee-issue!

In August my wife returned to Quito and she felt it was good to get rid of the hottest summer ever and to enjoy the relative ?cold? in her native country Ecuador: 22 degrees the year round. I returned back in November and felt it was nice to change the Swedish winter cold to these 22 degrees! We stayed in Sweden for some weeks at my dad's place on the small island "Sm^{gen}" on the Swedish west coast and happened to experience one of the worst thunderstorms ever; parts of the west Sweden were declared as catastrophic area. We are quite experienced in Quito with exploding volcanoes, heavy earthquakes, etc. but this almost took our breath away --- we stayed trembling in our small bed at ten in the evening. The Ecuadorian people really take their Catholic religion seriously and my wife begged a long prayer requesting help from 'above'. We listened at the same time to the programme "Karlavagnen" where listeners phoned in to speak about the theme of the evening "thunderstorms"! Very good timing from the Swedish state radio. One of those phoning in to "Karlavagnen" that evening was our member JOE/John Ekwall, who works as a meteorologist at SMHI and at once we did not feel that bad.

2240.00H, Radio Positiva, Quito, Dec 2002 - at 0000. It started when my wife did not find her favourite program on 860 kHz/Radio Visi^{Un} --- a medical program that every Sunday morning treated a special theme with experts invited and questions by phone in from their listeners. Some weeks later I was on the frequency 2240.00 where obviously a local Quito-station among others advertised for a company with the address "Avenida la Prensa y Vaca de Castro", that is where I live! I don't know of any "Radio Positiva" in Quito but the explanation is simply that "Radio Visi^{Un}"-860 kHz now is called "Radio Positiva". I can't figure out why the station can be heard so well on 2240 kHz. I don?' think it is a real harmonic. Close down 0003 UT with ID: "Desde Quito capital del Ecuador transmite Radio Positiva 860 kHz en amplitud modulada, una voz ecuatoriana para el mundo" then followed the NA. Sometimes with closedown later in the evening.

2700.78H, La Voz de Santo Domingo, Santo Domingo de los Colorados, Dec 2002 - 0205 UT. Located in the same province as Quito (Pichincha).

Sometimes ads for local companies here in Quito. Close down 0215 UT. Santo Domingo de los Colorados or "Santo Domingo of the coloured" got its name from a nowadays very small Indian tribe where the women are bare breasted and the men mainly use "achiote", a substance from a tree, to get their hair coloured red. I sometimes use to mix in some achiote powder in soups and other food. Here in Quito they use to say "Santo Domingo de los Colombianos" due to the fact that a lot of people from Colombia live there!

6579.80H, Radio Centro, Ambato, Nov 27 2002 - 1100 UT. Of the few HC-stations still active on SW this is my favourite with good news reporting and nice music. Harmonic from 3289.90 kHz. Congratulations to Radio Centro who this year celebrates their 35-year jubilee. Nowadays they are covering the whole country not only by the SW transmitter but also from cooperation with "Bonita FM" and all their transmitters in Ecuador.

Björn Malm, c/o Susana Garc  s de Malm, Avenida la Prensa 4408 y Vaca de Castro, Quito, Ecuador. Tel: +593 2 598 470, email: bjornmalm@yahoo.es rx: NRD-535, Loewe HF-150 samt Sangean 808ATS. Ant: 12 m lw \div V, 24 m lw N/S + Lw Magnetic Balun + MFJ1025 phaser [More of his loggings in this issue under: BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, EL SALVADOR, PERU] (Bj  rn Malm, Quito, Ecuador, SW Bulletin Dec 15, translated by editor Thomas Nilsson for DXLD)

** EL SALVADOR. 17835.36, Radio Imperial, Sonsonate, Nov 30 2002 - 2335 UT. When I logged YSDA in March this year it was on 17833.83 kHz with very weak modulation. Is now quite on frequency but with much better modulation. Now they also announce the frequency 17835 kHz which they did not previously. Nonstop Mexican music, ID and ads. (Bj  rn Malm, Quito, Ecuador, SW Bulletin Dec 15, translated by editor Thomas Nilsson for DXLD)

** FRANCE. Hi, RFI's Persian service puzzled me up in past days. I couldn't hear any of the given registered channels of RFI Persian 1800-1900 7350*[exc Mar], 9430, 11650*[spring]. A look to the RFI Persian website showed the following entries only: 1600-1630 6015 [DUS] 6035 [SNG]; 1800-1900 6145 [DHA] 6185 [TAC] maybe brokered by Merlin MNO too. The 1600 UT portion was mentioned in DX press in past weeks as Pushtu/Dari service. 73 wb df5sx (Wolfgang Bueschel, Germany, Dec 17, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** GERMANY. 7265, Sudwestrundfunk, 0650, Very nice copy of this domestic broadcaster, with signal peaks hitting 10 to 20 db over S9 in the southern USA. Pop music with male DJ. Commercial format. Ad for what sounded like "Media Mart" around 0659. News at 0700. Very nice audio quality. // 6030 which was running around S7 here. These two transmitters both put out 20 kW into flat top antennas but the one on

7260 is facing E/W and the one on 6030 has the lobes running N/S, so I'm right in the null of the 49 meter outlet (David Hodgson, TN, Dec 16, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** GUAM. KSDA is usually audible here at 2100 on 11980 and/or 11960, but no sign of it Dec 15 when the much-publicized JSWC anniversary special was to run; still typhooned off? (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** GUAM. KTWR-Trans World Radio's SW station on Guam suffered extensive damage to their antenna field as a result of Super-Typhoon Pongsona. On Sunday Dec 8 the typhoon lashed the island with 150 mph winds and 180 mph gusts. The typhoon went up the entire east side of the island, keeping it in the eyewall of the typhoon. The KTWR staff has been able to get antennas 2 and 5 together to have two transmitters on the air by Thursday Dec 12th. Work is ongoing, and further assessment is yet to be made (George Ross - KTWR Guam, WWDXC Dec 14 via BC-DX via DXLD)

** IRAN. TEHRAN, Iran, Dec. 17 - Iran's reformist-dominated parliament approved a bill Tuesday to lift restrictions on the public's access to most satellite television channels. While the proposal reflects a majority of Iranians' wishes for a more open society, it still must be approved by the hard-line Guardian Council before becoming law. More on <http://famulus.msnbc.com/FamulusIntl/ap12-17-081928.asp?reg=MIDEAST> (AP via MSNBC via Mike Terry, DXLD)

** IRAQ [non]. AIRBORNE RADIO STATION BEAMS MESSAGES TO IRAQ
U.S. MILITARY URGING SOLDIERS TO STOP SUPPORTING SADDAM

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- The U.S. military is using aircraft to broadcast radio signals into southern Iraq, encouraging Iraqi military forces to stop supporting the regime of President Saddam Hussein. The signals are coming from a type of modified Air Force transport plane known as "Commando Solo," which saw similar action over Afghanistan when personnel aboard broadcast messages that urged the Taliban to surrender.

These are the first such broadcasts to the Iraqi region by the U.S. military since the recent escalation of tension began between Washington and Baghdad, a Pentagon official said Tuesday.

The radio programming is transmitted during flights of EC-130J aircraft operated by the 193rd Special Operations Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, based near Middletown, Pennsylvania. The flights began Thursday, and the signals are to be transmitted between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. local time in southern Iraq every day, depending on the weather. The planes remain in Kuwaiti airspace.

Military officials said the broadcasts include songs in Arabic and English to encourage Iraqi soldiers to listen. U.S.-backed political messages are also played. Officials said the themes of the broadcasts include:

- i Saddam's diversion of money intended for food to weapons production, and previous Iraqi "intransigence" on U.N. Security Council resolutions
- i Saddam's use of chemical weapons on his own people
- i Saddam's previous military "misadventures," and his "squandering" of money on personal pursuits such as palaces

The U.S. military has used "Commando Solo" aircraft before as tools of "psychological operations" or propaganda, defense sources have confirmed. Some of the signals sent to Afghanistan last year were monitored by short-wave radio hobbyists in the United States.

[with illustrations, links:]

<http://www.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/meast/12/17/us.iraq.radio/>
(CNN via Artie Bigley, DXLD)

VOAnews version:

PENTAGON BEGINS AIRING PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS TO IRAQ

<http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=9F1B4D59-367D-47AE-806D788DD1E57798>
(via Artie Bigley, DXLD)

PENTAGON BROADCASTS PROPAGANDA OVER IRAQ

The Associated Press, Washington, Dec. 17

The Pentagon has launched a radio propaganda war in Iraq, broadcasting anti-Saddam Hussein messages officials say are aimed at weakening his support among his people and his military.

"People of Iraq ... the amount of money Saddam spends on himself in one day would be more than enough to feed a family for a year," said an English translation of one radio broadcast released by the U.S. Central Command. "How much longer will this corrupt rule be allowed to exploit and oppress the Iraqi people?"

"Soldiers of Iraq. Saddam does not care for the military of Iraq," said another of several radio messages. "Saddam uses his soldiers as puppets ... for his own personal glory.

"Saddam also sacrificed thousands of soldiers during the Iran/Iraq war ... When the Iraqi soldiers that were taken prisoner were returned, Saddam ordered their ears to be cut off as punishment for being captured."

Transmitted five hours a night from American planes flying outside the

country, the broadcasts are the first of their kind since those used in the 1991 Persian Gulf War when Iraqi forces were ousted from Kuwait, defense officials said.

The broadcasts of Arabic music and anti-Saddam messages began Thursday, said Pentagon spokesman Lt. Daniel D. Hetlage. But the program only became known Monday when the Central Command said it had dropped 480,000 leaflets over the southern no-fly zone in Iraq, including some alerting the Iraqis to radio frequencies and times to tune in to the American broadcasts.

The radio programs aim to "dissuade the Iraqi military from supporting Saddam," said Hetlage. Other versions include ones on Saddam's past use of weapons of mass destruction and explaining the world's view of weapons inspections now under way in Iraq.

They are being transmitted from an Air Force EC-130E Commando Solo aircraft, according to another official.

Leaflets dropped Monday to advertise the broadcasts feature a map of Iraq and two radio transmitters, with a message saying "Information Radio" can be heard from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., at five frequencies. The mass drop of nearly half a million leaflets was the seventh distribution of flyers over southern Iraq in three months and the largest. Leaflets were dropped over six locations and also included messages warning Iraqi military not to shoot at coalition aircraft monitoring the restricted zones, saying the zones are set up to protect the Iraqi people.

Officials said other drops have had little effect in getting Iraqi forces to stop harassing British and American planes that have been monitoring no-fly zones set up a decade ago over the country. The northern zones protect the Kurdish minority and the southern zones protect the Shiites. Saddam considers the zones a violation of his sovereignty.... (via Mike Cooper, DXLD; also:)
http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20021217_784.html
(via ABCNews.com via Artie Bigley, DXLD)

INFORMATION RADIO, DAILY 9715 11292 KHZ AT 1500-2000 UT

"Information Radio" broadcasts to Iraq from US Central Command Psyops are now being broadcast daily on 5 frequencies according to this item from Associated Press in the Guardian: extracts below - full story at:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,1280,-2251241,00.html>
[same AP story as elsewhere]

``...the broadcasts are the first of their kind since those used in the 1991 Persian Gulf War when Iraqi forces were ousted from Kuwait,

defense officials said.``

[but what about their operation in Afghanistan?? - Alan Pennington]

According to the US Central Command public information website:

<http://www.centcom.mil/Default.htm>

which pictures the leaflets dropped at

http://www.centcom.mil/Galleries/Photos/leaflets/Iraq_Leaflets/20021216.htm

the 5 frequencies used "1800-2300 daily" (= 1500 to 2000 UTC) are:

693 and 756 kHz mediumwave

9715 and 11292 kHz shortwave

and 100.4 MHz FM

Transcripts of the messages broadcast are also on this site.

So worth checking these shortwave frequencies 1500-2000 UTC!!

(Alan Pennington, BDXC-UK, Caversham, UK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Of the frequencies mentioned, 11292 kHz looks like an interesting choice. A quick search on the Internet revealed that this frequency has in the past been used by Radio Iraq International - as well as by a so-called spy station broadcasting in Arabic, // 6645 or 6647 kHz. Anyone hearing the station on 11292 or other frequencies? (Mika M%kel%inen, dxing.info via DXLD)

I monitored 11292 for most of an hour around 1700 Dec 17, but nothing at all heard here (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

**** IRAQ [and non]. ANALYSIS: US RADIO PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS TARGET IRAQIS** | Text of editorial analysis by Peter Feuilherade of BBC Monitoring's Foreign Media Unit on 17 December

The US has stepped up psychological operations against President Saddam Husayn of Iraq with the start of radio broadcasts targeted at military commanders as well as civilians. The broadcasts, launched on 12 December, are transmitted by US planes flying over southern Iraq.

They urge the Iraqi people not to support their president, and accuse him of diverting revenue from oil sales from food to weapons purchases. And in the seventh leaflet blitz over southern Iraq in three months, coalition aircraft dropped half a million leaflets warning Iraqi forces not to repair damaged communications facilities hit in air strikes on Saturday 14 December.

Overthrow Saddam, US broadcasts urge

The American radio broadcasts comment that "Saddam lives like a king, while his soldiers are underpaid and underequipped... Saddam does not wish the soldiers of Iraq to have the honour and dignity that their

profession warrants." They urge the Iraqi armed forces: "Do not let Saddam tarnish the reputation of soldiers any longer."

The broadcasts, which feature Arabic music as well as anti-Saddam messages, aim to "dissuade the Iraqi military from supporting Saddam," said Pentagon spokesman Lt. Daniel D. Hetlage.

Other broadcasts, directed at Iraqi civilians, point to the many monuments and portraits of Saddam Husayn dotted around the country. Saying the cost of the leader's ego trip would be better spent on the welfare of his people, the US broadcasts ask: "How much longer will this corrupt rule be allowed to exploit and oppress the Iraqi people?"

Specialist US psy-ops unit

Leaflets printed in Arabic and English dropped over Iraq say the American "Information Radio" broadcasts are on the air from 1500-2000 gmt on five separate frequencies in the FM, mediumwave and shortwave bands.

The frequencies listed are: 693 and 756 kHz mediumwave, 9715 and 11292 kHz shortwave, and 100.4 MHz FM. These are all frequencies that have been used at some stage by Republic of Iraq Radio. The broadcasts come from Commando Solo aircraft operated by a specialist US psy-ops unit.

The EC-130E Commando Solo is a modified four-engine Hercules transport aircraft that can broadcast simultaneous high-power mediumwave, shortwave, FM and TV signals. The planes can also jam or override local transmissions, in an effort to persuade listeners to tune to the propaganda frequencies.

Over the years, the unit has carried out missions in Vietnam, South Korea, Panama, Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Persian Gulf and Serbia. Most recently, it was in action over Afghanistan, broadcasting propaganda messages to the local population and Taleban fighters.

As well as the airborne broadcasts, the US has the use of ground transmitters in Kuwait and elsewhere in the Gulf to beam anti-Saddam programming to the Iraqi people.

"Bombs will do the talking"

The aim of the propaganda broadcasts is "to isolate the Iraqi leadership who are hiding in bunkers," John Pike of the US think tank Globalsecurity.org told the Washington Post newspaper earlier this year.

But not all American military analysts are convinced that

psychological warfare will succeed. William Arkin, a former army intelligence officer and now a military analyst, said in remarks published in the Baltimore Sun in November that if the United States invades Iraq, "bombs are going to do the talking," rather than any psychological operation that attempts to influence the entire country. Source: BBC Monitoring research 17 Dec 02 (via DXLD)

[Dec 17] The psyop war has begun. Commando Solo, according to leaflets being dropped on southern Iraq and released to the media by U.S. Central Command on Monday, is broadcasting Information Radio with the following schedule: *1500-2000* 756, 693, 9715, 11292 kHz, 100.4 MHz. <http://www.ClandestineRadio.com/intel/iraq.htm>

A copy of the leaflet can be viewed at:
http://www.ClandestineRadio.com/dossier/iraq2003/2002_1217_leaflets.htm

Tip per Jay Novello on chat #sw1 on Starchat (via David Ross, DXLD)

[Log:] 11292, 1846 Dec 17, CLANDESTINE, Commando Solo psyops to Iraq presumed the weak signal with ME music here, barely readable in USB mode. Thanks to Nick Grace, CRW for the tip (Paul Ormandy, NZ, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Iraq: U.S. Centcom Press Release, December 16, 2002

COALITION AIRCRAFT DROP LEAFLETS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ

MACDILL AFB, FL -- Coalition aircraft dropped 480,000 leaflets at about 4 a.m. EST today over southern Iraq.

Leaflets containing six separate messages were dropped at six locations, including near communications facilities that were damaged or destroyed by Coalition aircraft flying Operation Southern Watch missions on December 14. Leaflets dropped at those locations warned Iraqi forces that the Coalition has targeted fiber optic cables for destruction and that repairing the facilities place Iraqi military lives at risk.

Other leaflets:

- i referred Iraqis to radio frequencies where they could hear broadcasts by Coalition forces providing information
- i warned Iraqi air defenses that targeting Coalition aircraft or tracking them with radar could result in Coalition air strikes
- i stated that Coalition aircraft enforce the no-fly zones to protect the Iraqi people, and that threatening Coalition aircraft may result in air strikes

This was the seventh leaflet drop over southern Iraq in the last three months. Broadcast transcripts:

<http://www.centcom.mil/News/Misc/radioscripts.htm>
(via Nick Grace, Clandestine Radio Watch Dec 17 via DXLD)

** ISLE OF MAN. IOMBC - "objections crumble in court"

(Maybe 2003 will see the start of "MusicMann 279" (working title) following this encouraging news from <http://www.longwaveradio.com/News.html> posted on 1 December. I am pleased to note there will be a "draft judgement as quickly as possible, probably shortly before Christmas" - Mike).

Half a dozen objections to the award of a Siting Licence for the LW transmission facility were withdrawn when the case came before the High Court in Douglas at the end of November John Wright, the advocate for Bride Parish Commissioners said he would not now be proceeding with allegations of bias, secrecy and other complaints against the Department of Transport. "I shall now pursue only that it was unfair of the Department not to consult with my clients before awarding the permission," he told Acting Deemster Jeremy Storey, a leading UK silk. He also said that he would not now be relying on the evidence of Mr Cussons.

The Petitioners claimed that the Hon. Tony Brown, now Speaker of the House of Keys, but until last November the Minister responsible for the Department of Transport, had acted unfairly in not ensuring Bride Parish Commission members were consulted when considering awarding a Siting Licence to Isle of Man International Broadcasting plc for the facility to be located on a platform at sea, adjacent to the Bride coast.

'The applicants for the licence, Isle of Man International Broadcasting plc, engaged professional environmental scientists, Watermans, to consult a large number of potentially affected parties," explained the Government Advocate, Stephen Harding, on behalf of the Department. "This included not only the relevant Government Departments, who in turn consulted experts, but also non Governmental bodies too, who might be affected. They particularly included environmental organisations, shipping and fishermen's organisations and followed their advice when selecting a location."

Bride's concerns were all addressed at the previous 'land based' planning inquiry and the only grounds for rejection were found to be Land Use and Visual Impact. By moving the facility onto a platform and locating it several miles out to sea, the visual impact of the antenna, less than 100 feet tall, is considerably reduced, becoming no

more than a small feature on the horizon. The Minister had clearly considered this point carefully and spelt out his reasoning in his affidavit, which was read to the court. He had taken particular note and been consulted by the Director of Harbours on this point as he was not only a former Minister of DoLGE, thus responsible for planning, but had been a Member of the Council of Ministers which only recently had examined and considered the Report of the Planning Inspector.

Bride's concerns of fuel spillage and the potential for pollution had been carefully addressed by the Director of Harbours, Captain Michael Brew and were the subject of a professionally produced Oil Spill Contingency Plan which showed there to be a negligible 1% chance of fuel coming ashore, due to the ease with which diesel evaporates and the location chosen for the platform. Further, it had been agreed that tender trips to resupply the facility would only take place under calm conditions, considerably reducing the prospect of any spillage.

As a result of the withdrawal of so many of the objectors' arguments, the hearing was cut dramatically short before the end of the second day. Its start had been delayed from July as the Petitioners had suggested there was so much evidence it would take three days to hear and a suitably lengthy window was not available. The Petitioner's advocate requested a further delay of the judgement until the New Year, as was taking two weeks holiday in December, however Seth Caine objected saying his clients were "chomping at the bit and keen to get on." The Acting Deemster said he would circulate a draft judgement as quickly as possible, probably shortly before Christmas.

1 December 2002

(PS the website says "We believe the 279 Long Wave signal will reach as far as Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam, but plan to boost reception still further by broadcasting on satellite and short wave to other parts of the world.") (via Mike Terry, Dec 15, DXLD)

** ITALY. RECEPTION REPORT FROM FINLAND December 16th, 2002

Station: Studio X, Momigno

Frequency: 1584 kHz medium wave

Date : Friday-Saturday night, December 14th, 2002

Time: 00.51 ñ 01.28 Italian time

What a lovely feeling to discover that Your station can be heard all the way over here in Finland. I was listening to the frequency of 1584 kHz when I heard a voice in American English, who was Glenn Hauser and World of Radio. After this I heard nice music, with inserts of Studio X announcements inbetween the music records.

I hope that this report will be of use to use. I enjoyed hearing the music, very good, nowadays mostly talk programs on medium wave. There was not much interference either, just a little bit from a Spanish Station. You are doing just a perfect job. I hope I will reach you with this letter. From what I could hear Studio X is interesting also in long distance reception reports, you have a nice and informative program called World of Radio.

Here are some details from what I heard:

0051 DX-program / World of Radio Edition 1158.

"Sign off at 1958 or 1959. This is.. unusual for Ramadan ..Propagation to East Africa was excellent" ...

... 0126 Male announcer: "To be a great Music Station, It's not just what you play, it's the way you play them, And we play them better than anyone else ñ Oh Yeah! ñ 1-5-8-4 Studio X" into disco music.

This must be an incredible catch! I am glad to hear this station on 1584 kHz medium wave, where other stations actually also are broadcasting. I use a Japanese communications receiver, NRD 525 from Japan Radio company and I have a 500 meter long "beverage" antenna. This antenna consists simply of a copper wire 1000 meter in direction to the area and station I want to hear and it is very selective for other stations outside this direction.

Thank You very much indeed for this fine moment in front of my radio set. I hope to hear the same station again sometimes, when reception conditions permit. ---I would like to send my greetings to the male announcer, whose voice traveled this distance. Perhaps you can recognize this person. I would very much like you to comment on this program, so I can learn more about your radio. Your verification answer would be very much appreciated as a memory of the contact.

Best regards, Mr. Per-Ole Stenman, JAKOBSTAD, Finland
(via Massimiliano Marchi, Radio Studio X, DXLD)

** JAPAN. NHK domestic relay Osaka 2, very weak 15 DEC at 1235 UT on 3373.5 USB, listed as 300 watts. Also Tokyo 1, not \\\, slightly stronger on 3607.5U. Off 1300 (John Cobb, Roswell, GA, R75 and 80-foot Windom w/L-C tuner, Dec 16, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** JAPAN. Hi, JAPAN PREMIUM readers. We, KDXC, release frequency and address list of Japanese radio stations incl FM. Please visit, <http://www10.plala.or.jp/azwave/> Thank you. -- _/_/ (IWATA Gaku. Chiba, JAPAN. editor of JAPAN PREMIUM via DXLD)

** JAPAN. AFN RADIO SERVES DIVERSE AUDIENCE WITH DIVERSE PROGRAMMING
By Joseph Giordono and Hana Kusumoto, Stars and Stripes

Stripes Sunday magazine, December 15, 2002

What do you get if you cross Metallica with Faith Hill, with running commentary by Rush Limbaugh and Dr. Laura? AFN Radio.

AFN Eagle 810 AM radio broadcasts across the Kanto Plain to 50,000 listeners at Yokota Air Base, Yokosuka Naval Base, Camp Fuji, Camp Zama and Atsugi Naval Air Facility. Other stations bring the sound of home to U.S. bases from Okinawa to Iceland.

And because they have to be all things to all people, regional military radio stations face programming challenges unlike any commercial station, industry figures say.

Eagle 810, the American Forces Network station that serves bases around Tokyo, ended a three-week hiatus in mid-October, touting a revamped format focusing on news, popular music and individual DJs as radio personalities.

Radio programmers in Japan and the United States say that, with such a diverse and large audience, Eagle 810 and other military stations have to make conscious choices about which audience they most want to reach.

'It has elements of a sports station, a news station and a music station. It covers many genres. It's elusive,' said Shigeru Yamamoto, head of programming at Inter FM, one of just two Japanese commercial stations in the Kanto Plain area that broadcast predominantly in English.

'When there weren't many FM stations in Japan, I think Japanese people tuned in to listen to music,' he said, referring to AFN. 'But recently, Western music isn't hard to find,' noting that stations such as MTV Japan are the trendsetters.

American radio programmers also said Eagle 810 faces unique choices.

'The trend in radio has always been to be a niche station, to be known as the place for country or adult contemporary or R&B,' said Christopher Parks, a programming executive in Los Angeles for one of the largest commercial radio ownership groups in the United States.

Parks said programming one station to serve an entire community would be almost impossible.

'They're between the proverbial rock and a hard place,' Parks said, who hasn't listened to Eagle 810. 'You have to offer different formats to satisfy the different demographics of the audience, but if you

break things up too much, you lose everyone.'

But Parks said some advantages come with being a radio station playing to military audiences overseas.

'The bottom line is that they don't have to sell themselves to advertisers. When you've got a captive audience, like they have, there isn't bottom-line pressure to sell time,' he said.

'If they're the only station that gives American news, American sports and American music, then no matter how many listener complaints they might get, those listeners are going to keep listening.'

David Allen contributed to this story (via Kim Elliott, DXLD)

** KASHMIR. Dear Noel, What you heard is the new transmitter of Radio Kashmir, Jammu on 4830! Congratulations! (Thanks to info from Alok Das Gupta in Kolkata) The old SW transmitter at Jammu was taken off the air some years back. This must be the new 50 kw one. Look out for other frequencies on 6 / 7 MHz. In the past they were using 3345, 5960 and 7160 (Jose Jacob, India, dx_india via DXLD)

RADIO KASHMIR JAMMU RETURNS TO SHORTWAVE

The All India Radio (AIR) station in Jammu, identifying as Radio Kashmir, has returned to shortwave. According to Jose Jacob in India, a new 50-kilowatt transmitter was inaugurated on December 11. The schedule is as follows:

0025-0445 4830, 0630-0930 5965, 1030-2310 4830
The schedule can be extended for special occasions.

Radio Kashmir Jammu can also be heard on 990 kHz mediumwave. Reception reports can be sent to: Station Engineer, Radio Kashmir (All India Radio), Palace Road, Jammu 188001, Jammu & Kashmir, India. The station can also be reached by email (DXing.info, December 15, 2002 via Mike Terry, DXLD)

The new 50 kw BEL SW Transmitter of Radio Kashmir, Jammu is having some teething problems and is now off the air. It is expected to be back on air with more tests in one or two days. The schedule is as given in my previous messages (Jose Jacob, Dec 16, dx_india via DXLD)

Radio Kashmir, Jammu was heard while I checked just now at 1235 UT but it went off suddenly at 1246 UT. Signals were good (Jose Jacob, Dec 17, ibid.)

** MAURITANIA. 7245, R. Mauritanie, Nouakchott. Poor-fair though in

the clear with Koran recitation 0815 (Paul Ormandy, NZ, ADXN) Heard nightly, though s/on varies - sometimes 0800, occasionally 0830. Mostly Arabic programming, lots of chanting. Hangs on late, often till past 1000, a characteristic of our summer long path reception from W. Africa/Europe. Gone by 0945 on 14/12 (Craig Seager, NSW, Dec ADXN via DXLD)

** MYANMAR. 5040.6 is heard regularly now, but with the transmitter hum. The AIR transmitter in Jepore has regular problems and some days Myanmar is in the clear. I suppose old timers will remember Burma using 5040 for its service now on 5985.6 (Victor Goonetilleke, Sri Lanka, 4S7VK, DXplorer Dec 9 via BCDX via DXLD)

** NAMIBIA. NBC seem to have left 90 mb altogether; whenever I checked they were on 49 mb only, so probably 24 hr. operation on 6060 and 6175 (Vaclav Korinek, RSA, DXplorer via DXLD)

** PAKISTAN. 15070, R. Pakistan, 1345-1410 Dec 15, Local music with wailing vocals by M. Nice flutes and percussion. M announcer with muffled audio briefly around 1355, then more music. Same announcer again at 1359, instrumenal music bridge to ToH, very brief announcement by differnet M, then news by W in mid-east language starting with ID. W audio was stronger and much clearer. Kind of weak with quick fades (Dave Valko, PA, Cumbredx mailing list via DXLD)

** PERU. 4834.85, Radio Mara00n, 1112-1130 Dec 15, Noted mainly comments at beginning of listening, then at about 1115 canned ID from a woman. This followed by ad and then a radio drama. I don't know if the drama was religious (it's Sunday) or not? Signal was fair during the entire period. This surprised me because Peru has been in Daylight since about 45 minutes ago. My QTH however, is just at the gray line point. Gone at 1130 UT, but came back briefly at 1132 at a poor to threshold level. The ionosphere fascinates me. Yesterday prior to and during this time period, the entire 4 MHz band was covered by QRN. It was suggested that it might have been the Northern Lights causing the problem? There were others that reported experiencing the same problem (Bolland, Chuck, FL, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** PERU. 2662.69, Frecuencia (Dos)*, unknown QTH (Peru) Dec 12 2002 - 1050 UT. Without being to sure I got the feeling that the station has been on air for 5 days. The only geographical clue I got was greetings to someone in "Amazonas" and "todos los caserios en el norte" and a place with two words, the last was ".... Grande". The programming was live music from a studio and greetings. If it is a real 120-mb station and not a harmonic it is almost a small bomb.

*I am uncertain if they say "Dos"; it might be "Dios" as well -- music was type of semi religious "Boleros". Also heard evenings.

6020.08, Radio Victoria, Lima, Dec 2002 - 0145 UT. As usual with their extremely unpleasant ``milagro``-program. Said 780 and 6020 kHz. Does it mean that 31 mb Frequency now has finished? (Bj^rn Malm, Quito, Ecuador, SW Bulletin Dec 15, translated by editor Thomas Nilsson for DXLD)

** SAUDI ARABIA [non]. BACKGROUND ON MOVEMENT FOR ISLAMIC REFORM'S RADIO | Excerpt from report by London-based Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia in Arabic on 10 December about the movement's Sawt al-Islah [Voice of Reform] Radio; sub-headings as published

.. The movement has made many efforts to deliver its message through more effective means than faxes and the Internet. It has tried to implement a broadcast initiative to achieve this aim. But such a project is far from easy, especially since we oppose a state, with its great capabilities and international support. After many patient efforts, we have succeeded, thank God, in beginning broadcasting. We ask God to grant us success in delivering the word of truth, fulfilling the obligation of spreading the message, and allowing all members of the [Islamic] community to participate... .

Broadcast content

The most important content will be direct dialogue with the movement's official spokesman or with individuals selected by the movement to speak with listeners. Broadcasts will also include other cultural, social, historical, news and press materials, as well as contributions from listeners and letters to read on the air, God willing. The air will always be open for listener suggestions.

How can listeners participate?

By phone, fax, and e-mail - the station's address is radio@islah.org; through the movement's web site <http://www.miraserve.com> which has a special window for radio comments; through the radio section of the discussion forum; through the al-Islah room in PalTalk <http://www.paltalk.com> open every day between 2200 and 2400 hours Mecca time [1900 to 2100 gmt] for secure participation. The listener can participate electronically and ensure complete security by employing easy-to-use voice alteration programmes available on the Internet....

[Question] Why did the movement choose HotBird [European broadcast satellite at 13 degrees east] ?

[Answer] The movement did not choose HotBird. It was compelled to choose it, as the other satellites that broadcast to the region are

controlled by agencies that prevented the movement from using them. The movement is prepared to switch to another satellite if it is guaranteed secure service...

FAQ [frequently asked questions] on broadcast content

[Question] What programmes does the station offer?

[Answer] The most important programme content offers direct dialogue with the movement's official spokesman, or with individuals selected by the movement to speak with listeners. There will be open dialogue on all subjects relating to our country, our [Islamic] community, and especially current problems and future dangers.

[Question] Are there any limitations on broadcasts?

[Answer] There are absolutely no limitations aside from a prohibition on insults, abuse, foul language, or attacks on religion and personal dignity. Additionally, European governments impose certain limitations. The movement will be careful to heed them. There are no limitations, other than those mentioned above, on discussions of politics, society, government, or rulers...

[Question] How will the movement compete with other media in its programmes?

[Answer] The movement does not aim to compete with other media. Broadcast content is intended to further the movement's aims. The movement feels that, in essence, this project has no competition. As far as we are aware, there is no organization capable of delivering the unvarnished truth and opening a free space for vital discussion beyond the bounds set by the ruling regime.

Participation FAQ

[Question] How can I call without the destination of the call becoming known?

[Answer] You can do this by using an international calling card such as AT&T, MCI, or by using a "Call Back" system. In the latter, you dial a number in Europe or the United States, hang up the receiver, and then get a call that provides an international line. These methods, however, do not guarantee security if the individual's phone is tapped. What applies to the telephone applies to the fax as well. Perhaps the only means to avoid wiretapping, even if the phone is tapped, is by using internet telephony systems such as "Net-To-Phone." This is an affordable system that provides good voice quality and makes it impossible to trace the call.

[Question] Is written communication with the movement safe?

[Answer] Yes, written correspondence with the movement, whether by e-mail or the Web site forum, is completely secure, God willing. There is no way for anyone to trace the electronic path back to the person who sent the letter or message.

[Question] Will the movement pay attention to what it receives?

[Answer] Yes, the movement will read everything it receives. We cannot, however, guarantee that all questions and comments will be read on the air. A comment may be inappropriate, or we may receive too many comments, or there may be other reasons. We ask that anyone who wants his comment to be read as is kindly provide clear reasons why this should be done.

[Question] How can I participate using PalTalk [an online chat system]?

[Answer] The movement will open a PalTalk room each day from 2200 to 2400 hours. The room will be connected to the broadcast so that you can hear what is happening in the room on air. People will be able to enter the room to participate in the broadcast with a virtual microphone. According to the information we possess, it will be virtually impossible to perform an electronic trace on participants.

[Question] Will participants be able to alter their voices?

[Answer] Yes, there are many programmes available on the Internet for secure voice alteration. They make it virtually impossible for the state to restore the original voice.... Source: Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia web site, London, in Arabic 10 Dec 02 (via BBCM via DXLD)

** SRI LANKA. TWR Sri Lanka (882 kHz) is noted back on air this morning (16 Dec 2002) after being off air for 3 days (Jose Jacob, Hyderabad, India, dx_india via DXLD)

** SRI LANKA. On 10th December, Mr. Tamilselvan, Jaffna news reporter working for the clandestine IBC-TAMIL, was severely assaulted by soldiers of the Sri Lanka army and members of EPDP. At the time he was attacked, the journalist was covering a mass demonstration in Nellyyadi town against EPDP and its unlawful activities. EPDP is a pro-government Tamil outfit, funded and armed by Srilankan military, now fights alongside government troops against the LTTE. During the incident, more than 50 civilians were also assaulted by the soldiers. Several human rights organisations and Tamil political parties

condemned this brutal act of army.

In the worst press freedom violation of the year 2000, on 19 October, Mariyadasan Nimalaranjan who worked for several local newspapers in Srilanka, radio and TV stations like IBC-TAMIL, and was also a regular contributor to the BBC's Sinhala and Tamil services, died after being shot by members EPDP, in his home, which was very near to a [garble].

Sri Lankan authorities prevented Colombo-based journalists from attending the funeral of Nimalaranjan. On the basis of reports within Sri Lanka, the defence ministry had given clearance for four journalists to travel to the town of Jaffna from the capital but later withdrew permission. The reports were later confirmed by the defence ministry who failed to provide a reason for the volte-face (via Prabakaran, Tamilnadu, India, DXLD)

PA QUERIES VOICE OF TIGERS -- ColomboPage News Desk, Sri Lanka

The PA expressed its opposition to the government for allowing the Voice of Tigers to take the radio transmission equipment to Wanni. The customs has allowed some transmitters and other equipment gifted by Norway to take to Wanni.

PA spokesman Dr. Sarath Amunugama said the action of the government was against customs procedures and telecommunications regulatory authority act. He said the action of Norway raises many doubts about the neutral role of Norway in the peace process.

Dr. Amunugama said the equipment has been cleared by PM's secretary without any customs inspection and taken to Wanni without any checking. Tigers have said they wanted the equipment to expand their broadcast which earlier started as a clandestine radio (via D. Prabakaran, Tamilnadu, Dec 16, DXLD) What's PA????

LTTE GIVEN LICENSE FOR FM RADIO STATION
source- THE HINDU- Tamil daily from India

The controversy over broadcasting equipment imported for the 'voice of tigers' has deepened with media reports that the LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM was granted a temporary license for a private FM radio station. The LTTE was given the license last month to broadcast at a frequency of 98 MHz subject to condition that the station would be at Kilinochi [a rebel held town at northern Srilanka], with a coverage of 20 km radius and an altitude of 75 mts.

With Kilinochi around 120 km [?????- d.p] as crow flies, from southern India, the relative ease with which repeaters can be installed, the existing VOT network and the fact that signals are

stronger across seas, could still [make] it possible for the LTTE broadcasts to reach South India.

The temporary license was to broadcast educational, sports, entertainment and foreign news along with local news. The equipment imported includes transmitters, antennas, amplifiers, a 20 channel audio mixer and speaker systems. The consignment, which was handled by Norwegian embassy, was then sent with government escort and handed over to the LTTE (via D. PRABAKARAN, METTUPALAYAM, TAMILNADU, INDIA, Dec 16, DXLD)

** UKRAINE. Hello Glenn - I remember reading your report in the December 4th edition of DXLD that Radio Ukraine International would begin improved broadcasts to North America next year. Last night (UT Dec 17, 0100 and 0400), I tuned into their broadcasts on 9810, and was very impressed with their signal, especially on a night which in general exhibited poor to average propagation. They must have run their Mykolaiv transmitter at full power from 0000 to 0500 UT, with English at 0100 and 0400. The signal approached that of local stations at times. It's good to hear RUI with such a nice signal on shortwave again (Fred Newlin, New York, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

RUI TO USE 7375 IN JANUARY 2003. Glenn, Against my monitoring recommendation, RUI will change from 9810 kHz to 7375 kHz in January 2003. Reason for my negative impression of 7375 is mainly due to the jammer on and around 7375 as shown in the following monitoring log.

0000 UTC SSB talk around 7375 kHz. R. Marti on 7365 NOT causing QRM to 7375 kHz.

0030 UTC jammer causing severe QRM to 7375 kHz

0045 UTC same as 0030 UTC

0050 UTC tone begins on 7375 kHz. Still have jammer QRM.

0100 UTC BBC, positive ID, on 7375 kHz. Also severe jammer QRM.

0115 UTC same as 0100 UTC

0130 UTC BBC transmission ends. Still have jammer QRM.

0145 UTC same as 0130 UTC.

0200 UTC same as 0130 UTC.

0215 UTC same as 0130 UTC.

0230 UTC same as 0130 UTC.

0245 UTC same as 0130 UTC.

0300 UTC jammer on and around 7375 kHz causing severe QRM. Radio Rossii, Moscow (positive ID) on 7380 kHz NOT causing QRM to 7375 kHz.

0315 UTC same as 0300 UTC

0330 UTC same as 0300 UTC

0345 UTC same as 0300 UTC

0400 UTC same as 0300 UTC

0415 UTC same as 0300 UTC

0428 UTC jammer on and around 7375 kHz causing severe QRM. Voice of America begins using 7370 kHz causing slight QRM to 7375 kHz. 0445 UTC same as 0428 UTC.

In my opinion RUI can probably handle the BBC and VOA QRM on 7375 kHz. However, IMO, RUI will lose to the jammer on and around 7375 kHz. 73, (-.. . Kraig, KG4LAC Krist, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U A E. UAE Radio, Dubai, has finally moved on from ``Saladin, Hero of Islam`` to ``Welcome to Islamic Traditions thru the Ages``, Dec 17 at 1334-1346 on 21598v. This one was about the art of calligraphy, and how Arabic lends itself to near mirror-imagery. Closing credit for writer sounded like ``Michael Muslim Mills``! (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** UK. BBC's 70th anniversary bash, which seems deliberately devoid of any classical music, started off fine, after 1700 UT as I was listening to the European webstream, tho a few minutes late, until well after the first musical performance was underway, at 1710 it suddenly switched to this loop: ``Due to restrictions imposed by the rights-holders, BBC World Service is unable to offer the current programme on the internet``. !!!!!

It did continue on the special SW frequency 15190, and on the American webstream. What is going on here? How embarrassing, that BBC doesn't have the rights to its own celebration in Europe??

Spot checked during the next two sesquihours and the same situation continued. Since the Americas webstream can also be accessed in Europe, what is the point of all this?

The special ran about 5 minutes past 2000, but 15190 stayed on. There was a rather abrupt transition to the newshour at 2005, and 15190 still stayed on. Just as BBCWS chief Mark Byford, who does not speak the Queen's English, was asking what the future holds for the WS, he was chopped off at 2029:30 (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

In response to Glen[n]'s original posting let me offer the following guess as to what happened with the Internet Feed. Usually BBCWS broadcasts Sunday Sports World at 1700 GMT which of course we cannot hear in the 'new world' because 15190 has gone off and because none of the BBC WS live sports material is webcast. SO someone likely forgot to change the system that turns the feed off during the regularly scheduled sports show. Just a guess (Sandy Finlayson, swprograms)

No, as I said the birthday bash started off fine, and only after a few minutes did we get the blocking message on the Europe webstream (gh, DXLD)

** U K. Re: DXLD-2197 "When BBC7 arrives on Sunday, only 120,000 radio sets will be able to pick it up".

That's true, but what the article doesn't mention is that so will more than 6 million TV sets, as the service will also be available - like the other BBC digital services - on the Sky digital platform via the Astra satellite. The BBC does a poor job of marketing its existing digital services. BBC 5 Live's jingles and ID's refer to its mediumwave frequencies of 909 and 693, never to its digital ones. UK listeners don't need a Sky subscription to access the BBC services.

The same call centre that handles Sky viewing cards also issues free viewing cards to any UK household with a valid TV licence that asks for one. In addition to the BBC, this picks up other UK channels including ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5, Sky News (which is not encrypted), the ITV News Channel, CNN, EuroNews, a whole bunch of shopping channels and oddities such as Abu Dhabi TV which are free to air.

It's therefore erroneous to say that 'BBC digital broadcasts are available in only 65 per cent of the country', since anyone from the north of Scotland to the Channel Islands can pick them up with a 60 or 80 cm dish and a digibox. Now, if the argument is that they can only be picked up by spending extra money, that's different. Everyone, regardless of income, has to pay the same amount for a TV licence, which funds these services. But not everyone can afford the extra for the equipment to receive them. But the article makes no mention of the fact that, if you have digital satellite TV, you don't need to go out straight away and buy a digital radio. Nor do you need your TV set on to listen to radio, as the digibox has an audio output that can be plugged into your hi fi. The only problem is that the digibox doesn't have a frequency or channel display, so you either need to know the channel number of the station, or select it first via the EPG on TV screen.

The author of the piece, Ray Snoddy, is a very experienced media analyst, but I have often found his pieces to be lacking in research. 73, (Andy Sennitt, Netherlands, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U S A. Radio Farda (Tomorrow Radio) starts its broadcast in Persian (Farsi) 24 hours from studios in Washington, DC and Prague, CZ. to Iran on Thursday Dec 19.2002. Its website will be <http://www.radiofarda.org> and will be in operational sometimes in JAN 2003; at present time redirect you to the <http://www.radioazadi.org> web site. Also on Satellite, Internet and on AM 1593 kHz on 24 hours basis. Time UT:

0030-0400 9515 9585 9795
0400-0600 9585 9795 12015 15290
0600-0800 9585 15290 17675
0800-0830 9585 13680 15290 17675 21475
0830-1400 13680 21475
1400-1700 9435 13680 15410
1700-1900 11705 11845
1900-2000 6140 11960 11985
2000-2130 9785 11960 11985
2130-0030 1593, Satellite, and Internet Only
Sincerely (Pete Mohazzabi, Dec 16, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

I noticed that R. Farda's posted schedule has gaps in it, hardly 24h, so clicked on the webcast ending at 1700 UT Dec 16. After that, the webcast went to loop ``This is RFE/RL, Praha``... (gh, DXLD)

** U S A. Wall Street Journal, 16 Dec 2002: COMMENTARY

WHAT'S 'POP' IN PERSIAN? By JESSE HELMS

Iran seethes with protests over a death sentence given to a professor for disagreeing with the government about who is allowed to interpret the Koran. Iranians are now questioning the decisions of their religious, political and judicial leaders. The sentence has been appealed, making the coming weeks crucial to Iran's internal debate over freedom. There has never been a greater opportunity for U.S. public diplomacy to assure Iranians of our solidarity and to tell the story of liberty and limited government.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to, because the most successful U.S. broadcasts into Iran have been shut down. And it wasn't the mullahs who shut down these broadcasts. We did.

Until Dec. 1, Radio Azadi (Persian for freedom) delivered 11 daily hours of news and discussion of social and political issues. Beginning in 1998, it earned the trust of Iranian students and dissidents. During the 1999 student protests, Azadi broadcast a call from the wife of a dissident at the very moment the regime's goons were beating down the door of her apartment.

In November, as students took to the streets to protest the professor's death sentence, Azadi broadcast roundtable discussions between student leaders, other dissidents and the exile community, providing one of the only means of communication between democratic forces inside and outside the country. Its death prompted this protest from a listener: "At a time when the need for democratic forces and two-way communication with the outside world has increased and become ever more critical for the very survival of those forces, the most

effective means of achieving that end has been discarded."

The role earned by Azadi -- as facilitator of conversations between exiled Iranians and democratic forces inside Iran -- was what Congress had in mind in 1996 and 1998 when funds were set aside for broadcasting into Iran. Congress based that legislation on Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, which broadcast messages of hope into Eastern Europe during the Cold War. It's a major understatement to say that Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty played a crucial role in rolling back communism.

Adding insult to injury, Azadi was replaced yesterday by a new format that specifically excludes any description of U.S. foreign policy and any discussions with dissidents, either inside or outside Iran. Instead, the U.S. taxpayer will finance the broadcasting of "Top 40" American and local pop tunes delivered with a spoonful of headline news content. This format, which hasn't been approved by Congress, is the creation of a bureaucracy called the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which, until recently, was controlled by Clinton appointees.

This ill-advised format is based on the hope of boosting listenership through pop music. No doubt, some will listen to this network, but to what end?

It's difficult to believe that the Bush administration has agreed to support this shift from a proven program of serious policy discussion to a teeny-bopper music-based format. Nevertheless, Radio Farda was unveiled yesterday. It likely will insult the cultural sensitivities of Iranians, as well as their intelligence.

Meanwhile, the brave professor sits in jail cell awaiting execution, students plot protests, and the regime struggles to hold the line against the will of the people. And the U.S. will be spinning Britney Spears discs?

Mr. Helms is a Republican senator for North Carolina (via Kim Elliott, DXLD)

** U S A. CASEY KASEM OR FREEDOM?

By Jackson Diehl, Monday, December 16, 2002; Page A25 Washington Post

After an Iranian court sentenced the reformist academic Hashem Aghajari to death last month, the largest and most sustained student demonstrations in years erupted in Tehran. As they grew, day after day, U.S.-operated Radio Azadi, or "Radio Freedom," was their favorite medium. Every day, student leaders would call by cell phone from the roiling campuses to the radio's headquarters in Prague and narrate the

latest developments live. Each night the radio would broadcast a roundtable discussion, patching together students and journalists in Tehran with exiled opposition leaders to discuss where the reform movement was going. So instrumental to the rebellion-in-the-making did the radio become that pro-regime counter-demonstrators recently held up a placard reading "Who does Radio Azadi talk to?" -- a taunt taken by the station's staff as a badge of honor.

The protest movement, now five weeks old, rolls on, spreading from students to workers and from Tehran to other cities. Some see parallels to the popular movements that overthrew the Communist regimes of Europe in 1989 -- with a big dose of help from U.S.-sponsored Radio Free Europe. In this case, however, the tottering dictatorship has gotten a big break: Two weeks ago, Radio Freedom abruptly disappeared from the air. Iranians were no longer able to hear firsthand reports of the protests or the nightly think tanks about their country's future. Instead, after two weeks of virtual silence, the broadcasts are being replaced this week with tunes from Jennifer Lopez, Whitney Houston and other soft-rockers.

How did the mullahs pull off this well-timed lobotomy? They didn't: The U.S. government, in the form of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, did it. In an act that mixes Hollywood arrogance with astounding ignorance of Iranian reality, the board has silenced the most effective opposition radio station in Iran at a time of unprecedented ferment. In its place, at three times the expense, the United States now will supply Iran's revolutionary students with a diet of pop music -- on the theory that this better advances U.S. interests.

Even the name of the station has been sanitized. Instead of "Freedom" -- regarded as too political by the programmers -- the radio will be called "Farda," meaning "tomorrow." Never mind that "freedom" is what thousands of young Iranians have been risking their lives to shout every day on the streets. "The assumption of the people who did this back in Washington is that Iranian young people, like young people in most places, don't want to hear news," says Stephen Fairbanks, the ousted director of Radio Freedom. But this is not most places -- this is Iran, where young people are leading a rebellion against a dictatorship that has stifled opposition media. The student leaders who used to phone in, Fairbanks says, now tell him that "they are losing their voice."

The "people back in Washington" Fairbanks referred to are led by Norman Pattiz, a Los Angeles-based commercial radio mogul and generous Democratic contributor who was rewarded by President Clinton with an appointment to the broadcasting board. As the chairman of the board's Middle East committee, Pattiz initially focused on the Voice of

America's Arabic service, which he deemed out of touch in a region where there is growing popular hostility to the United States. His solution was to replace what he called the "old-style propaganda" of VOA with Radio Sawa, a pop-music station that debuted last March. Sawa broadcasts five minutes of news twice each hour, along with Whitney, Britney and a few Arabic balladeers.

The jury on Sawa is still out. The good news is that the station seems to have captured a fairly large audience in countries such as like Jordan and Dubai, where American culture is popular even if American policy is not. But Pattiz and his Washington-based program consultant, Bert Kleinman -- a former producer of Casey Kasem's hit countdown -- have yet to prove that they can sustain the audience while "layering in" more news. In fact, they have yet to deliver on promises to Congress that the news programming will be significantly increased. Their argument that young Arabs in cities such as Amman and Beirut are more likely to be captured by American music than by canned documentaries is not unreasonable. What's inexplicable is the extension of that logic to mullah-ruled Iran. Yes, Jordan's young population, governed by a pro-American dynasty, is angry at the United States; but in Iran, where an anti-American dictatorship is clinging to power through sheer brutality, the United States and its policies are wildly popular, especially among young people.

So was America's radio station, until recently. "This is not the Cold War era, where oppressed people were under the thumb of tyrants, and they would stand with one foot in a bathtub holding a wire hanger to hear what we would say," Pattiz smugly told the Boston Globe. Maybe not in Egypt, but that's exactly what was happening in Iran -- until Washington pulled the plug. "We made extraordinary inroads," says Fairbanks. "Everyone started to see us as a forum. Each day there were students who would report live to us from their mobile phones. It's a measure of how bold they have become that they would do that." "Or did."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A59781-2002Dec15.html> © 2002 The Washington Post Company (via Kim Elliott, Harry Helms, Mike Cooper, DXLD)

** U S A [non]. Airborne PsyOps against IRAQ begin: see IRAQ [non]

** U S A. New York Times (magazine, I think) December 15, 2002

POP-AGANDA By PAUL TOUGH

Why do they hate us? According to a theory being tested this year by the Broadcasting Board of Governors, an arm of the United States government, they hate us because we haven't been playing them enough J. Lo. In March, the B.B.G. addressed that shortfall by budgeting \$35

million to start Radio Sawa, a 24-hour radio network broadcasting from studios in Washington to FM stations in Jordan, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar; it's also piped into Iraq, past Saddam's scramblers, via Kuwait.

Radio Sawa is the brainchild of Norman Pattiz, chairman of the Westwood One radio network. Soon after President Clinton appointed him to help oversee the government's foreign broadcasting efforts, Pattiz took a fact-finding trip to the Middle East, and he came back with two observations: there is a 'media war' going on in the Arab world, and the United States is losing.

The Arab-language all-talk Voice of America, also under the control of the B.B.G., wasn't up to the fight, Pattiz concluded. It was boring, especially to the younger generation Pattiz wanted to target. Radio Sawa, by contrast, is lots of fun: an upbeat mix of contemporary Western and Arabic pop (J. Lo seguÈs quite nicely into the Egyptian heartthrob Hisham Abbas, it turns out), no ads and two brief news segments each hour, presenting the events of the day with a gently pro-American spin. Pattiz recruited Arab journalists from Al Hayat (a London-based newspaper) and 'Nightline' to write the news briefs.

Officially, the reports are balanced and objective, seeking the truth from all sides. But critics charge that Radio Sawa presents the American point of view more explicitly than Voice of America did. For example, the V.O.A. was criticized in Washington late in 2001 for broadcasting excerpts from an interview with the Taliban leader Mullah Muhammed Omar; the news director of Radio Sawa, by contrast, told reporters that he wouldn't have broadcast Omar's interview, nor would he broadcast the voice of Saddam Hussein. President Bush's June 24, 2002, speech calling on Palestinians to replace Yasir Arafat, however, was broadcast live in its entirety, translated instantly into Arabic.

The message comes through in the music, too -- like Casey Kasem, the D.J.'s on Radio Sawa introduce each song with a story about the artist. 'When we play a song by Jennifer LÙpez, we talk about all the difficulties she has overcome,' Pattiz explains. 'Those are great stories about the kind of things that can happen to you when you live in a democracy.'

Though reliable ratings figures are sometimes difficult to come by, so far indications are that Radio Sawa (sawa means 'together' in Arabic) is getting through: Pattiz says that 80 percent of 18- to 30-year-olds in Amman are regular listeners. And the network is expanding; this month, the B.B.G. plans to start a Radio Sawa-like service that will broadcast in Farsi to Iran.

The main problem, so far, is that the network's young Arab listeners

seem to like the pop a lot more than they like the news: Avril Lavigne, yes; Condoleezza Rice, no. One Jordanian listener told the BBC that he listens to the music on Radio Sawa all the time but turns the dial whenever the news comes on. 'It's like listening to Israeli radio,' he said. 'It's biased.' (via Kim Elliott, DXLD)

**** U S A. PENTAGON DEBATES PROPAGANDA PUSH IN ALLIED NATIONS**
By THOM SHANKER and ERIC SCHMITT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 ó The Defense Department is considering issuing a secret directive to the American military to conduct covert operations aimed at influencing public opinion and policy makers in friendly and neutral countries, senior Pentagon and administration officials say. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has not yet decided on the proposal, which has ignited a fierce battle throughout the Bush administration over whether the military should carry out secret propaganda missions in friendly nations like Germany, where many of the Sept. 11 hijackers congregated, or Pakistan, still considered a haven for Al Qaeda's militants.

Such a program, for example, could include efforts to discredit and undermine the influence of mosques and religious schools that have become breeding grounds for Islamic militancy and anti-Americanism across the Middle East, Asia and Europe. It might even include setting up schools with secret American financing to teach a moderate Islamic position laced with sympathetic depictions of how the religion is practiced in America, officials said.

Many administration officials agree that the government's broad strategy to counter terrorism must include vigorous and creative propaganda to change the negative view of America held in many countries.

The fight, one Pentagon official said, is over "the strategic communications for our nation, the message we want to send for long-term influence, and how we do it." As a military officer put it: "We have the assets and the capabilities and the training to go into friendly and neutral nations to influence public opinion. We could do it and get away with it. That doesn't mean we should."...

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/12/16/international/16MILI.html?ex=1040706000&en=3132532d70106b87&ei=5062&partner=GOOGLE>

(via Artie Bigley, DXLD)

**** U S A. December 15th - 2328 UT - tuned in to find (I *think* this time) W R N O on 7355 with a strong signal, still a bit low on modulation. Programming in English is a man talking about economic changes - almost sounds like the same individual I heard a number of days ago.**

Not waiting for Station ID before reporting - last time I waited 1 hour 19 minutes for one - only to have them sign-off shortly thereafter (almost 0300 UT on a Monday) If you need WRNO, here's a chance. SINPO in Ohio is 44434 (Bill Matthews, Columbus, Ohio, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Checked at 0020 UT Dec 16, and a pretty strong carrier, but modulation very low; not enough to avoid bubble jammer bleedover from 7365, or SSB 2-way on low side; stayed on 2.5 hours, but unlistenable (gh, OK, DXLD)

** U S A. Ran across ``Imagination Theatre`` as it was about to end at 0600 UT Mon Dec 16 on KFAB-1110 Omaha, caught website <http://www.transmediasf.com> which in turn leads to a station list for this weekly hour: <http://www.transmediasf.com/itstat.html> Unfortunately the listing for KFAB itself is wrong, just `Sat 6 pm and midnight`, zone not specified, presumably local UT-6. Some 150 stations are claimed including some other biggies, such as WCCO, KKOB, KPNW (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U S A. Re WMQM running 50 kW on 1600:

This is a very remarkable change of the FCC policy. 1600AM was used as a low power AM channel. This station might cause a lot of interference in the areas of low power stations during nighttime. Nevertheless WMQM has more or less a clear channel. Best regards (Eric PA2REH, BDXC, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Eric, Not really. For many years now FCC has allowed more than 5 kW on regional channels, on a case by case basis. Same company already accomplished this several years ago with their 1300 in Nashville, WNQM, 50 kW. DAYTIME, if there are no stations close enough to be interfered (or if applicant can buy off/close down such stations, as was done with 1600 and 1300). You apparently haven't seen my other reports about this. Night power is only 35 watts. Of course once they are on the air, they might be able to get this changed, or heaven forbid, ``forget`` to power down as so many stations do, without consequences. And then there's the prospect of digital... 1600 is anything but `clear` with dozens of other stations in the USA, day and night. KATZ St Louis tends to dominate here. WMQM has apparently been delayed again. Not heard Dec 14 or 15. 73, (Glenn Hauser, DXLD)

WMQM IS ON THE AIR! For Immediate Release 14 December 2002
POC: George McClintock (615) 255-1300

The "On-Air" date for WMQM, 1600-AM, Memphis, Tennessee's newest Christian Radio station has finally arrived. Several unforeseen delays

have finally been overcome and the station officially began "on-air" testing on Saturday evening, 14 December 2002. The station will continue testing on Sunday and is expected to begin regular programming on Monday, 16 December 2002 (via WWCR website)

Kept checking 1600, and Mon Dec 16 in the 2200+ period there was no particular station dominating the skywave mElange, but at 2238 caught an ID for KCRG in Iowa. Surely if WMQM were on yet at full power it would be making an appearance before LSS at 2245. Not till 2248 did KATZ fade up, with a traffic report for I-55 and I-70. Also checked Tue Dec 17 from 1303 to 1330, and nothing identifiable as WMQM; occasional dominants were something in Spanish, and KATZ again with St. Louis traffic (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

For Immediate Release 16 December 2002

WMQM, 1600-AM, Memphis, Tennessee's newest Christian Radio station has arrived. Several unforeseen delays have finally been overcome, with only minor problems still existing. The station officially began "on-air" testing Saturday evening, 14 December 2002.

The station will continue testing throughout this week and is expected to begin regular programming shortly. Currently the station is off the air, due to interference being caused to a local railroad crossing sign. The railroad officials are working on the situation and should have it solved shortly (via WWCR website Dec 17, via DXLD)

** U S A. Received a post card from Gary "Jax" Jackson in today's mail. It reads: "Talked to owner KHPY Moreno Valley, CA 1670 kHz. He stated they had not been testing only one hour so far. But would be on air on a regular basis after first of year." (Art Blair, Folsom, CA, Dec 17, IRCA via DXLD)

** U S A. There are 3 days left to comment to the mailing from the lawyers requesting night IBOC on AM. Sorry, I understand that this is an FM forum but I believe IBOC is important enough to post this. Thanks for your patience. (Kevin Redding, WTFDA)

Commissioners, Gentlemen,

I am writing in reply to the recent request on 99-325 by Mr. John Wells King of Garvey Schubert Barer to have IBOC allowed at night. Sirs, I am taking this opportunity to request as a end user that this NOT be allowed.

I live in Arizona far from much of the testing that has been done with IBOC. I have had interference from the digital sidebands that cause me loss of service and difficulty in hearing regularly heard

stations at my home. At present, although the interference, which sounds like rushing water on each side of the center frequency which is testing, it can be heard here.

Not only is the interference with United States stations, it also interferes with international frequencies. In the early December testing with WLW running IBOC, I was unable to listen to sports programming from Southern California that I commonly listen to, without interference, from XETRA. The digital artifact was quite destructive to XETRA.

During the later testing between WLW and WOR, considerable interference was noted between WOR's IBOC upper sideband signal and KDWN from Las Vegas. This would cause secondary listeners, in a case of national emergency such as occurred on 9/11, would be rendered unable to retrieve information concerning the emergency. The same would be if there was an EAS message to be broadcast. The general public uses analog radio and the interference would possibly cause many listeners to be rendered unable to receive life saving notifications because of an increased noise floor due to the sideband digital transmission.

In the petition on page 3 its noted "...computer models and field tests have shown that night time use of the AM IBOC system can in certain instances, lead to intolerable levels of interference..." If this interference is going to be intolerable in many cases, at least extrapolating what could be from what I have heard, then why cause the public to lose their service and notification of emergencies in any case?

With the significant skywave that is observed on MW frequencies, I am of the opinion that digital will not work well, especially in the hybrid IBOC mode and will be destructive to the AM analog band in a way that will cause listeners to flee to other bands or entertainment venues.

I disagree with the petition on page 4 that states, "...the number of stations which would cause interference is small." I believe that all stations not running IBOC would receive detrimental interference if I can hear the sidebands on the other side of the country from the testing. This interference has been noted also in California.

It is for this reason that I believe that even the digital stations would interfere with one another in the IBOC hybrid mode.

I would like to see further testing with several adjacent frequencies with stations such as 1060 KDUS, KNX 1070 kHz, KSCO 1080 kHz or some such clustered arrangement be tested. Furthermore until

testing is done with 8 or so stations on a graveyard frequency such as 1230 and 1240 clustered in a fairly close proximity, then the true effect of IBOC will not be understood.

It's for the reason that I feel testing is not only complete, but I believe that real world testing has not even been accomplished, that I am against the night time use of IBOC on MW frequencies at this time. Thank You Commissioners for your time in this matter.

(Kevin Redding, Mesa, Arizona, Dec 17, via WTFDA via DXLD)

** U S A. Dear Mike, RAIN has learned that the "Small Commercial Webcaster" license for the performance of sound recordings on Internet radio - an optional license that can be elected by qualified small webcasters in lieu of the statutory license if they so choose - has been signed by parties representing both sides and was submitted to the Copyright Office on Friday afternoon. Read all about it -- including a message from one of the smaller commercial webcasters who participated in the negotiations -- in today's issue of "RAIN: Radio And Internet Newsletter," which is available online now at <http://www.kurthanson.com> (via Mike Terry, Dec 16, DXLD)

** VATICAN. VATICAN RADIO EMISSIONS "WITHIN THE LAW"

In an official statement, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that electromagnetic emissions from the transmitter site of Vatican Radio at Santa Maria di Galeria are "now within the safety limits set by the Italian law." This follows problems last year when readings taken on behalf of the government had confirmed that radiation exceeded the permitted maximum at 11 of the 14 locations subjected to checking. The inhabitants of the area around Santa Maria di Galeria, north of Rome, claim that local cases of leukaemia were caused by pollution from Vatican Radio's transmitter site. Vatican Radio reduced the power on some frequencies and moved certain transmissions to other sites (© Radio Netherlands Media Network 17 December 2002 via DXLD)

** VENEZUELA [non]. Checking the weekly ALÔ Presidente via Cuba, Sun Dec 15 at 1440, surprised to find that 15570 was not parallel to 17750 and 15230, which were parallel to each other. Some had music, others talk. So two different transmitter sites and/or different feedlines? But at 1445 recheck they had merged. As usual, the other two reported frequencies, 11715 and 6140, were inaudible (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** ZANZIBAR. TANZANIA. Zanzibar tuned 11734.1 at 1935 UT, fair signal with US/Euro soft rock music and female DJ who was making announcements in what sounded like English, last number ran past TOH; into Swahili talk at 2000:30 with mentions of Zanzibar and Pemba.

Local Mid-East style music followed. 73, (John Cobb, Roswell, GA, R75 and 80-foot Windom w/L-C tuner, Dec 16, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

11734.1, 3.12 1648, Radio Tanzania Zanzibar med s/on kl. 1648 UT, arabisk lignende messende sang, fra 1700 UT meget stærk QRM fra Radio Africa Int'l på 11735 med 'Goodevening Africa' (amerikansk metodist radio via J,lich) 3 SHN (Stig Hartvig Nielsen, Denmark, SW Bulletin via DXLD)

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PUBLICATIONS

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BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH WINTER 2002 EDITION

The Winter 2002 edition of Broadcasts in English is now available from the British DX Club. It was compiled by Alan Pennington and includes details of all currently known international broadcasts in English on shortwave and mediumwave for the B-02 schedule period (Winter 2002 in northern hemisphere). As usual it is in time order throughout and covers all target areas. Transmitter sites are listed where known.

This edition of Broadcasts in English is incorporated in the special January edition of BDXC's monthly bulletin "Communication" which has just been posted to all BDXC members. It also includes:

- Guide to DX and Media programmes in English
- Complete listing of all active UK Low Power AM stations
- latest shortwave, mediumwave and UK radio news
- WorldSpace Afristar / WRN EuroMax / IBB mediumwave schedules and other features....

Copies of this 60 page booklet are available while stocks last at the following prices (postage included):

United Kingdom - 2 pounds sterling

Europe - 5 Euros or 5 International Reply Coupons

Rest of World - 5 US dollars or 6 International Reply Coupons.

UK cheques/postal orders should be payable to "British DX Club".

Payments in dollars or euros by cash only please.

All order/enquiries to:

British DX Club
126 Bargery Road
Catford
London SE6 2LR UK

Full details also on the BDXC web site: <http://www.bdx.org.uk>
(via Mike Terry, hard-core-dx via DXLD)

PROPAGATION

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AURORA

This is most certainly a radio related subject. To obtain an explanation and up to date data. <http://www.spaceweather.com> Home page, this will often (but not always) mention auroras (aurorae?). At any rate then scroll up to link NOAA Space Environment Centre and double click this. Click Online Data on the next menu. When this comes up scroll to SEC User Groups and double click Aurora (Ken Fletcher, UK, 1326 UT 15th November 2002, DX LISTENING DIGEST) ###